

anatomy there should be regular methods of description, such as have been so successfully employed in systematic botany. The progress of botany now, as of all sciences, is towards simplicity, as for instance, all the parts of plants, the most complicated, are reduced to root, stem, and leaves, and these in turn are but multiplied cells, proceeding from a plasma of uniform appearance. So methods of description should be reduced to like simplicity and comprehensiveness.

The author hopes that the progress of the science and in a very small degree the application of his own counsels may render useless in a few years the great part of the present volume. The last part of it, however, will be long consulted, for it is a grand list of herbariums that are of use in authenticating species. From this list can be learned just where at present are the herbariums of authors who have published and the famous collections of explorers. For this botanists will be very grateful for it will help in securing information that might not otherwise have been obtained.

ALBINO ARETHUSA BULBOSA.—Mr. Fred Hoard, of Providence, R. I., has just brought me a perfect albino of *Arethusa bulbosa*, L. The yellow lines of the labellum are retained.—W. W. BAILEY.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.—*Catalogue of North American Musci*. Eugene A. Rau and A. B. Harvey. This neat catalogue of over fifty pages is intended to furnish a check and exchange list, and also a basis for the arrangement of genera, etc., in herbaria. It undoubtedly supplies a want felt by many botanists, and will be received with thankfulness. The range is a large one, including all North America, every authentic species reported from Mexico to the Arctic region, appearing in the list. Of course, the species are all numbered to facilitate exchanges, and the numbers mount up pretty well, rising to 1,252, distributed among 177 genera.

*Catalogue of Trees and Shrubs*, native and introduced in the Horticultural Gardens adjacent to Horticultural Hall, Fairmount Park, Philadelphia. This catalogue contains a hundred pages and is a good one but no man's name appears as author and we will have to take it as an anonymous production. The catalogue seems to be made more for the convenience of gardeners and amateur botanists, than for professional botanists. A great deal of work has been done in the matter of synonyms and brief descriptions in the hope that the species may be recognized. Both genera and species are arranged in alphabetical order, and as the author acknowledges his sin in this matter, his reasons seem to be very good. It is a capital catalogue and does just what it professes to do, and we can imagine nothing more convenient in the hands of a botanist visiting Fairmount Park, or one desiring to know what was under cultivation there.

*Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club*, May.—The noticeable feature in this number is Mr. Davenport's description of a new fern accompanied by an excellent plate, drawn by Mr. C. E. Faxon. The new fern is *Notholana Grayi*, and was collected among the mountains

of south-eastern Arizona, by Wm. M. Curtis. Mr. Davenport considers it one of the most elegant species yet discovered and so different from any known form that, although the material is scanty, he has no doubt as to its claim to rank as a genuine species. "There is no other species with which it can be compared. Under the microscope, the white powder (upon the fronds) separates into distinctly stalked gland like bodies with enlarged conical, flat or inverted heads like a miniature host of fungi, with their variously shaped caps. With a power of 200 diameters, or even less, the scales of the frond appear to be composed of elongated, cylindrical, tapering tubes, containing a light brown coloring matter, collected into a mass at the base, or in spots at intervals throughout the length of the otherwise whitish scales, which are thus made to appear jointed."

*American Naturalist*, June.—This journal, of course, runs to Zoology, as is to be expected from the tastes of both its editors. Every department has a specialist in charge of it except botany, and, of course, the botanical notes lose just that much in force and authority. But the wants of botanists have not been entirely neglected, and we have to thank the *Naturalist* this year for several valuable articles. The most interesting one in the June number is Prof. C. E. Bessey's on "The Supposed Dimorphism of *Lithospermum longiflorum*." The author seems to have made a most exhaustive study of this species, carefully measuring the length of corolla tube, the height of anthers and the height of stigma of over 60 flowers, with the view of testing the supposed dimorphism. The results show great variation in the measurements, but nothing like the well-marked differences that appear in true dimorphism, such as that of the nearly allied *L. canescens*. The results are summed up as follows:

- 1st. The length of the corolla is exceedingly variable.
- 2d. The distance from the anthers to the top of the corolla tube is approximately uniform, so that the position of the anthers is largely dependent upon the length of the corolla tube.
- 3d. The length of the style is even more variable than that of the corolla tube.

MR. E. GREENE writes that in his article on "Certain Silkweeds" in the last GAZETTE, it should read of *A. Sullivantii* that it is more common in Minnesota than in other locality further south, rather than "north," as it is printed. Also *A. speciosa* has not been reported farther east than Nebraska, instead of "Nevada."

HYGIENIC AND THERAPEUTIC RELATIONS OF HOUSE PLANTS, by J. M. Anders, M. D., Ph. D.—This small pamphlet of sixteen pages is a reprint from the *Philadelphia Medical Times*. It will be remembered that Dr. Anders last year published in the *American Naturalist* some articles in which were recorded some very careful observations with regard to the moisture evaporated by plants and their beneficial influences. The present paper is meant as an answer to the common question, "How do plants in rooms affect the health of the inmates?"